



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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RECYCLING CAN MEAN BIG-BUCKS FOR YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL
Only Three Weeks Left for "School Challenge"

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) will award cash prizes to the public schools that recycle the most containers during the "School Challenge". The contest started November 1st and will end December 31st. Children, parents, aunties, uncles and grandparents are urged to get their non-labeled beverage containers to the recycler nearest them and help their school win one of the \$10,000 grand prizes.

Any Hawaii K-12 school can play. For a list of participating schools, visit the Department of Health web site at www.hawaii.gov/health.

Public schools are divided into categories of large, medium or small based on enrollment. Each category may have up to six winners:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1 st place schools | \$ 10,000 | 4 th place schools | \$ 3,000 |
| 2 nd place schools | \$ 5,000 | 5 th place schools | \$ 2,000 |
| 3 rd place schools | \$ 4,000 | 6 th place schools | \$ 1,000 |

With over 40 schools participating, the leaders so far are:

- Large Schools: **Honowai Elementary** with 12,356 containers
- Medium Schools: **Waikiki School** with 9,703 containers
- Small Schools: **Paia School** with 1,566 containers

(more)

Anyone can take their eligible containers to a participating recycling center and donate it in the name of their favorite school. The school you choose doesn't even have to be on your island!

Local non-profits are even getting in the game. Windward Ahupua'a Alliance – an environmental group - is partnering with Castle High School. The Alliance will gather and sort beverage containers, giving the unmarked ones to **Castle High School**. Marked containers will be redeemed by the Alliance in January to fund their ongoing environmental efforts.

Private schools are also participating. DOH in partnership with the Hawaii Food Industry Association (HFIA) are collecting monetary and product donations to award winning schools that recycle the most containers.

Participating recycling centers will accept both "HI 5" labeled and unlabeled containers for the school challenge program. Acceptable containers must be separated by material type (metal, glass, and plastic #1 & #2), drained of contents, and uncrushed. Wine, spirits, milk, concentrates, syrups and containers over 64 oz. are excluded from the programs.

After January 1, 2005, certified redemption centers will refund the 5-cent deposit on containers labeled with "HI 5".

Visit www.hi5deposit.com to sign up for the School Challenge or to learn more about Hawaii's new Beverage Deposit Program.

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